

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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SUBJECT: REACTION TO TLATELOLCO

REF: SAN JOSE 0731, SAN JOSE A-25

1. EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE IS STILL SPARSE WITH MOST EDITORIALISTS STILL ATTEMPTING TO FATHOM THE FINAL PRONOUNCEMENTS. PRESTIGIOUS, CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION LA NACION TOOK A GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE OUTCOME. IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "THE LESSON OF TLATELOLCO, " LA NACION CONTENDED THAT THE CONFERENCE SEEMED TO SUCCEED IIN ITS FUNDAMENTAL AIM WHICH WAS TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR HEMISPHERIC UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION, AND FRANK RELATIONS. LA NACION OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS NO EASY TASK SINCE THE LATINS HAD INITIALLY FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO PUT ASIDE THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND SPECIFIC GRIEVANCES WITH THE US IN FAVOR OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S GRAND APPROACH TO US LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN THE END, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED APPROVINGLY THAT THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO GUIDE THE LATINS TOWARD SEEKING CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION OF A COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS ON A HEMISPHERIC SCALE SEEM TO HAVE PREVAILED.

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2. NOT SURPRISINGLY, SENSATIONALIST AND OCCASIONALLY GRINGO-

BAITING PLN DAILY LA HORA TOOK A MORE SKEPTICAL VIEW OF THE
CONFERENCE OUTCOME, BUT
GRUDGINGLY DID RELENT IN ITS EARLIER EXPRESSED FEARS THAT
THE LATINS WOULD ONCE MORE SELL OUT TO UNCLE SAM.
LA HORA CHARACTERIZED TLATELOLCO IN TERMS OF ONE MORE
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR NATIONS,
ADDING THAT TRADITIONALLY THE RICH HAD IMPOSED THEIR WILL ON
THE POOR ESSENTIALLY BY BUYING CHEAP AND SELLING DEAR.
LA HORA ALLOWED THAT TIMES ARE FINALLY CHANGING AND THAT
THE POOR NATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO DEMAND AN EQUITABLE
DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH. THAT LA HORA BELIEVED THE POOR
NATIONS HAD A LONG WAY TO GO IN MODERNIZING THEIR
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE RICH WAS MANIFESTED IN THE DAILY'S
EMBRACING OF A QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO
TO THE EFFECT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR STATES ARE
STILL AS BACKWARD AS WORKER/EMPLOYER RELATIONS 100 YEARS AGO.

3. COMMENT: IN THIS CASE, THE EMBASSY ASSESSES
LA NACION'S VIEW AS MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF COSTA RICAN
INFORMED OPINION THAN LA HORA'S.
LANE

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